1   1. (Original) Apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:

2   a digital interface for communicating with a stimulus device;

3   a packet interface for communicating with a packet-based network; and

4   a controller to receive stimulus control information from the digital interface and

5 to encapsulate the stimulus control information into one or more packets for transmission over

6 the packet-based network through the packet interface.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the
stimulus control information into an Internet Protocol packet.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface includes a
UART interface.

1   4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface includes a time

2 compression multiplex interface.

1   5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller adds a destination

2 address of a telephone switch system into the one or more packets.

1   6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller adds a destination

2 address of a stimulus telephone into the one or more packets.

1   7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information is

2 according to a first stimulus language, and wherein the stimulus control information remains in

3 the first stimulus language after encapsulation.

8.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the stimulus control information without translating the stimulus control information into a different form.

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller encapsulates the stimulus control information by adding header information according to a network protocol.

10.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the network protocol header information includes an Internet Protocol header.

11.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller adds further header information according to a transport protocol.

12.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the further header information includes a User Datagram Protocol header.

13.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller also scrambles the stimulus message before encapsulation.

14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encrypts the one or more packets.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receiver to receive the one or more packets, the receiver including an element to decapsulate the one or more packets to extract the stimulus control information.

16.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the receiver is associated with a second stimulus device, and wherein the extracted stimulus control information is in a native stimulus language of the second stimulus device.

1   17.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control

2   information includes at least one of hook state information, display information, and key press

3   event information.

1   18.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information

2   includes a command selected from the group consisting of a handset volume control command, a

3   handset connect/disconnect command, an audio stream open/close command, and a ringer

4   activation command.

1   19.   (Cancelled)

1   20.   (Original) A method for use in a telephony system, comprising:

2   communicating stimulus control information with a stimulus device through a

3   first interface and packet information with a packet-based network through a packet interface;

4   encapsulating stimulus control information received from the first interface; and

5   transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control information as at least one packet

6   to the packet interface.

1   21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

2   decapsulating one or more packets received from the packet interface and

3   containing stimulus control information; and

4   transmitting the stimulus control information of the decapsulated one or more

5   packets to the first interface.

1   22.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the stimulus control information is in

2   a native stimulus language, and wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information includes

3   inserting the stimulus control information in its native stimulus language into a payload of the at

4   least one packet.

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1   23.   (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control

2   information includes adding a network protocol header to the stimulus control information.

1   24.   (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control

2   information includes adding an Internet Protocol header.

1   25.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control

2   information further includes adding a User Datagram Protocol header.

1   26.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising scrambling the stimulus

control information before encapsulating.

1   27.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising encrypting the at least one

2   packet.

1   28.   (Original) An article including one or more machine-readable storage media

2   containing instructions for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when executed

3   causing a device to:

4   receive data according to a stimulus protocol from a first interface;

5   encapsulate the data into one or more packets; and

6   communicate the one or more packets to a packet-based data network.

1   29.   (Original) The article of claim 28, wherein the one or more storage media contain

2   instructions that when executed causes the device to:

3   receive a packet containing data according to the stimulus protocol;

4   decapsulate the packet; and

5   communicate the data according to the stimulus protocol to the first interface.

1   30.   (Original) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and containing instructions

2   for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when executed causing a device to:

3   receive at least one packet containing a stimulus message according to a first

4   language;

5   decapsulate the at least one packet to extract the stimulus message according to

6   the first language; and

7   send the stimulus message according to the first language to a stimulus device.

1   31.   The data signal of claim 30, further containing instructions that when executed

2   causes a device to:

3   receive a stimulus message according to the first language from the stimulus

4   device; and

5   encapsulate the stimulus message according to a first language into at least one

6   packet.

1   32.   (Cancelled)

1   33.   (Cancelled)

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1   34.   (Original) An apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:

2   means for receiving a stimulus message from a stimulus device;

3   means for encapsulating the stimulus message into at least one packet; and

4   means for transmitting the at least one packet to a packet-based network.

1   35.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an interface card adapted to

2 be inserted into a slot of the stimulus device, the interface card comprising the digital interface,

3 the packet interface, and the controller.

1   36.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface is adapted to

2 exchange the stimulus control information with the stimulus device.

1   37.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information

2 contains a command according to a stimulus protocol selected from the group consisting of off-

3 hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1   38.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receiver to receive one or

2 more inbound packets containing inbound stimulus control information, the controller to

3 decapsulate the one or more inbound packets to extract the inbound stimulus control information.

1   39.   (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each of the one or more inbound

2 packets contains a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port number, the controller to determine from

3 the UDP port number whether the corresponding inbound packet contains voice data or stimulus

4 control information.

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1   40.   (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising providing an interface card to

2   be inserted into a slot of the stimulus device, the interface card having the first interface and the

3   packet interface,

4   wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information and transmitting the

5   encapsulated stimulus control information and transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control

6   information is performed by the interface card.

1   41.   (New) The method of claim 20, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control

2   information comprises encapsulating a command according to a stimulus protocol selected from

3   the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset

4   disconnect.

1   42.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein each of the received one or more packets

2   contains a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port number, the method further comprising

3   determining from the UDP port number whether the corresponding received packet contains

4   voice data or stimulus control information.

1   43.   (New) The article of claim 28, wherein encapsulating the data according to the

2   stimulus protocol comprises encapsulating one of an off-hook stimulus command, on-hook

3   stimulus command, handset volume control stimulus command, handset connect stimulus

4   command, and handset disconnect stimulus command.

1   44.   (New) The data signal of claim 30, wherein receiving the at least one packet

2   containing the stimulus message comprises receiving the at least one packet containing stimulus

3   message containing at least a command selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook,

4   handset volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1   45.   (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein, the stimulus message contains at least

2   a command selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control,

3   handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1   46.   (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:

2   means for decapsulating the at least one packet received from the packet-based

3   network and containing the stimulus message.

1   47.   (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising means for encrypting the at

2   least one packet.

1   48.   (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising means for scrambling the

2   stimulus message before encapsulating.